

# Women's Innovation Network –WIN

2007-2008

Proposed program to be sponsored by the City Federation of Women's Organizations

## **Brief overview:**

WIN is envisioned to become a program that is committed to supporting women's efforts to create, innovate, and change... all inherent to the adult learning process.

The intent of the program is to provide a support structure and opportunities for individuals who wish to identify like-minded women with whom they can form collaborative learning groups for purposes such as creating new opportunities in their professional or personal lives, researching issues and problems of mutual interest, focused networking, or problem solving similar life transitional concerns. The support would ideally be awarded through a granting process in which interested women can submit proposals for programs that could be supported in the form of waived space fees and small amounts of non-salary funds to cover out of pocket costs for supplies and other materials or equipment needs.

## **Proposed structure for 2007-2008:**

The program will be initiated with a core group of women who have volunteered to take part in becoming program facilitators. This group of women will meet 2 to 3 times to become familiar with facilitation skills, creative problem solving tools, and develop ways in which they help support new proposed groups by the wider WCB community of women. This group will become familiar with the adult learning principles of self-direction, reflection, and positive inquiry as principles of active group learning.

The second stage of the program will be to solicit proposals for WIN-Innovation Network programs that meet the overall goals of the women's innovation network. Interested women will be asked to submit proposals for groups they wish to conduct, entirely or primarily, at the WCB. The proposal guidelines will suggest that the groups accommodate 5 to 25 members, meet approximate 3 to 6 times, focus on issues of concern to women and girls in their efforts to create, innovate, and change, contribute in some manner to the broader Ithaca community.

Proposal guidelines will ask for a description of the goals, the desired outcome, a description of the way in which group members will be sought and selected, the desired meeting times and space requirements, a request for funds to support non-salary costs of the group.

## **Timeline:**

The core group will meet between Nov. 15 and Jan. 1.

The proposal guidelines will be distributed Dec.15 with a Jan 15 deadline.

Groups will be notified about WCB support by Feb 1 so that the groups can meet during the period from Feb 1 through May 30.

All federation members will be informed of the program and the application process.

Group program topics might include: Exploring opportunities for empty nesters, creating a young mother coffee house, Women in transition, or Ramping up our computer skills. The core facilitator group will generate additional ideas for such groups as a way of helping interested women imagine a group that might meet their particular interests.